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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 EB-08 TRSE-00 H-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 STR-07 OMB-01 /080 W
----------096888 130403Z /65
R 120955Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7591
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
WUGRUQMRA/AMEMBASSY JMKDA 2075
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2051

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, XF
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO REMOVE SEVERAL AMERICAN FIRMS FROM ARAB BLACKLIST

REF: STATE 90993

1. CHARGE AND ECONOFF RAISED ISSUE REFTEL WITH MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE IMADI APRIL 11. IN PRESENTATION WE POINTED OUT THAT FORD HAD MADE INVESTMENT PROPOSAL IN SYRIA AND RCA REPRESENTATIVES DURING RECENT VISIT HAD EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SYRIAN MARKET. IT SEEMED CERTAIN THAT REMOVAL OF THESE FOUR FIRMS FROM BLACKLIST WOULD RESULT IN SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS FOR SYRIA.

2. IMADI GRASPED POINT IMMEDIATELY AND NOTED THAT HE TOO

HOPED FORD INVESTMENT PROPOSAL WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO FRUITION. SAID HE WOULD TALK TO SYRIA'S REPRESENTATIVE TO ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTTMEETINGS AND SEE THAT HE WAS PROPERLY BRIEFED. IMADI'S ATTITUDE APPEARED CONFIDENT. HE SAID PRINCIPAL DANGER
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WOULD BE ACTION BY AN ARAB LEAGUEGMEMBER TO DELAY A VOTE IF IT SEEMED THE MAJORITY WAS FOR REMOVAL.

3. IMADI DID NOT KNOW EXACT DATE OR VENUE OF NEXT ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT MEETING BUT THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE IN JUNE. HE SAID ALL AL MEMBERS WERE USUALLY REPRESENTED. DECISIONS

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WERE TAKEN BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OR IN CASE OF ABSTENTIONS

BY MAJORITY OF THOSE VOTING. RECOMMENDATIONS WERE NORMALLY PRESENTEDBY COMMISSIONER GENERAL MAHJOUB BUT INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL BOYCOTT REPRESENTATIVES COULD ALSO PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS. MAHJOUB PREFERED BUT DID NOT VOTE. SYRIA'S

REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE MOHAMMAD AL AJAMI, THE HEAD OF THE SYRIAN BOYCOTT OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

4. COMMENT: BELIEVE IMADI PERSONALLY FAVORS REMOVAL OF ALL FOUR FIRMS FROM BOYCOTT LIST BUT HE WILL NOT EXPOSE HIMSELF UNDULY IN ARGUINIG HIS POSITION TO SYRIAN GOVERNMENT. HIS POSITION WITH REGARD TO FORD HAS BEEN THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO REMOVE ITSELF FROM BOYCOTT LIST BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH ITS INVESTMENT PROPOSAL IN SYRIA. SYRIA WOULD NOT TAKE THE LEAD IN PROMOTING SUCH REMOVAL

ACTION. - SYRIA HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN MORE COMFORTABLE IN

FOLLOWINGTHE LEAD OF OTHERS ON SUCH MATTERS.) WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT ANY EGYPTIAN RECOMMENDATION TO BE MET WITH CONSIDERABLE RETICENCE ON SYRIA'S PART IN VIEW OF CURRENT POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. SAUDI RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD CARRY MORE WEIGHT WITH DAMASCUS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780467/aaaacemg.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 103bd0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 78 STATE 90993
Retention: 0
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2997694
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSAL TO REMOVE SEVERAL AMERICAN FIRMS FROM ARAB BLACKLIST
TAGS: ETRD, XF
To: STATE
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